[0029] FIGS. **18**A-E are partial front elevation views of the elements of a garment system including differently shaped or sized male closure members.

LIST OF DRAWING REFERENCE NUMERALS

[0030] **20** closure
- **[0031]** **30** male member
  - **[0032]** **32** bar
  - **[0033]** **33** ball
  - **[0034]** **34** flat front surface
  - **[0035]** **36** male exterior side
- **[0036]** **40** female member
  - **[0037]** **42** trough
  - **[0038]** **43** concave region
  - **[0039]** **44** flat rear surface
  - **[0040]** **46** female exterior side
  - **[0041]** **47** sidewall
  - **[0042]** **48** curved end
  - **[0043]** **49** female front surface
- **[0044]** **50** detent
- **[0045]** **60** flange
- **[0046]** **62** alignment bar
- **[0047]** **63** reinforcement bar
- **[0048]** **70** recesses

[0049] **500** garment
- **[0050]** **510** first end
- **[0051]** **520** second end

[0052] **600** primary garment piece

[0053] **700** secondary garment piece

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0054] Referring initially to FIG. **1**, there is illustrated a reduced front elevation view of a thin garment closure **20** in a closed position and connected to a garment **500**. Closure **20** includes a male member **30** and a female member **40** (see also FIGS. **4** & **10**). Garment **500** has a first end **510** and a second end **520** which are connectable by means of closure **20**. Closure **20** is particularly suited for use with garments such as brassieres, lingerie, and swimwear, however its utility is not limited to these applications. In an embodiment, the closure is a front closure for a brassiere, where first and second ends **510** and **520** of garment **500** are to be joined between two brassiere cups. In another embodiment, the closure is a brassiere shoulder strap fastener and first and second garment ends **510** and **520** include one end of a brassiere shoulder strap and one of either material above a brassiere cup or material at the top of a brassiere back strap. In another embodiment, the closure is a back closure for a brassiere, where first and second ends **510** and **520** of garment **500** are two ends of a back strap.

[0055] FIG. **2** is a front elevation view of closure **20** and FIG. **3** is a cross-sectional view along the line **3**-**3** of FIG. **2**. Male member **30** and female member **40** have, respectively, male and female exterior sides **36** and **46**. First end **510** of garment **500** is connected to male exterior side **36** and second end **520** is connected to female exterior side **46** (see also FIG. **1**). In the shown embodiment, ends **510** and **520** are connected, respectively, to exterior sides **36** and **46** of closure **20** by feeding the fabric of each garment end through a loop in the corresponding exterior side and stitching the fabric of the garment end to itself (as indicated by the dashed lines of FIG. **1**). Ends **510** and **520** of garment **500** may be connected to exterior sides **36** and **46** of closure **20** by other methods well known in the art, including simply passing the end through the opening for attachment elsewhere on the garment, as in the case of an adjustable length brassiere shoulder strap.

[0056] FIGS. **4**-**9** of female member **40** of closure **20** give, respectively, front elevation, bottom plan, left side elevation, rear elevation, cross-sections along lines **8**A-**8**A of FIGS. **4** and **8**B-**8**B of FIG. **7**, and front and rear perspective views. Female member **40** is preferably unitarily formed by molding and comprised of a high performance polymer such as polyoxymethylene (POM) or polyamide (PA). The tensile strength of closure **20** when made in engineering plastics such as POM or PA is between about 20-30 lbs. Female member **40** generally lies in the plane F shown in FIG. **8**A. When a garment including closure **20** is worn, the rear of female member **40** faces the body of the wearer. Female member **40** has a trough **42** in the rear face which is preferably oriented longitudinally and substantially parallel to and offset from female exterior side **46**. Trough **42** is shaped complementary to a bar **32** of male member **30** (see discussion of FIGS. **10**-**13**), so that trough **42** may receive bar **32** of male member **30**. Female member **40** also has one or more flat rear surfaces **44** which adjoin and at least partially surround trough **42**. Female member **40** has a female front surface **49** which may have various shapes such as rectangular or ovate, and may include various decorations or logos.

[0057] FIGS. **10**-**13** of male member **30** of closure **20** give, respectively, front elevation, cross-sections along lines **11**-**11** and **12**-**12** of FIG. **10**, and front perspective views. Male member **30** is preferably unitarily formed in the manner and of materials as described above for female member **40**. Male member **30** generally lies in the plane M shown in FIG. **12**. Male member **30** has a bar **32** which is preferably oriented longitudinally and substantially parallel to and offset from male exterior side **36**. Bar **32** is shaped to be received in trough **42** of female member **40**. In the shown embodiment, bar **32** has two ends and each end terminates in a ball **33**. Ball as used herein means a rounded protuberance. The diameter of ball **33** is preferably greater than the thickness of bar **32**, in other words the ends of bar **32** are enlarged. In another embodiment, bar **32** has a ball **33** at only one end. Each ball **33** corresponds to a complimentary shaped concave region **43** on the ends of female trough **42**. The rear of male member **30** faces the body of the wearer when worn. Male member **30** has one or more flat front surfaces **34** located between male exterior side **36** and bar **32**. Bar **32** of male member **30** may have various shapes including cylindrical, rectangular, polygonal, or of tapered width as shown in FIG. **11**.

[0058] FIGS. **14**A and **14**B are cross-sectional views of male member **30** and female member **40** in partially coupled states. Cross-sections of members **30** and **40** are as shown in FIGS. **8**A and **12**. To couple male and female members **30** and **40**, the members are oriented such that planes M and F are substantially transverse and bar **32** of the male is aligned with trough **42** of the female. Bar **32** is inserted into trough **42**, and one or both of the closure members are rotated until planes M and F are substantially coplanar; ends **510** and **520** of garment **500** are thereby connected. When closure **20** is fully closed, flat rear surface **44** of female member **40** contacts flat front surface **34** of male member **30** (see also FIG. **17**D). Flat rear surface **44** of female member **40** allows